UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/690
26 August 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 25 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that under Article 35, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of Burundi has decided to propose the convening of an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the total and illegal economic blockade, which is in all respects contrary to international law, imposed by the States of the Great Lakes Region and the threat of an imminent arms embargo to the very severe detriment of our country and our people. Having been a member of the Security Council, Burundi has been and remains a witness to and aware of the various procedures applied in the Council. These are in conformity both with the Charter of the United Nations and with the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, while adjusting to the requirements which vary from case to case. In this connection, the Government of Burundi urges the President of the Security Council to organize in advance a public debate before proceeding to the drafting of the draft resolution. This procedure has the great merit of offering all the parties against whom the two complaints formulated by Burundi are directed the opportunity to state their case. On the other hand, hurrying to draft and submit a draft resolution before hearing the views of the two sides is tantamount to putting the cart before the horse, and hence convicting or acquitting the parties before the presentation of their respective grievances.

In accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter and rules 37 and 38 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the delegation of Burundi requests authorization to participate, without vote, in the public debate.

(Signed) Térence NSANZE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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